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AN AGENDA FOR PEACE: PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY, PEACEMAKING AND PEACE-KEEPING

Report of the Secretary-General

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REPLIES RECEIVED FROM OTHER REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Central African Customs and Economic Union 2

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Central African Customs and Economic Union

[Original: French]

[27 April 1993]

1. The General Secretariat of the Central African Customs and Economic Union (CACEU) warmly welcomes the initiative taken by the Security Council on the proposal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to involve all regional arrangements and organizations in the quest for peace and security.

2. The primary purpose of the Central African Customs and Economic Union is, of course, to promote the economic and social integration of its member States with a view to the all-round and harmonious development of the Central African subregion.

3. However, conscious that the question of development is closely linked to that of peace and security, the CACEU General Secretariat has a duty to take an interest in the proposals which the Security Council has made aimed at strengthening the functions relating to the maintenance of peace and security of organizations like the Central African Customs and Economic Union and to consider coordinating its efforts with those of the United Nations.

4. In addition, the General Secretariat of the Central African Customs and Economic Union, taking advantage of the suggestion that it should have observer status with the United Nations, will immediately take the necessary steps with its highest authorities with a view to making an application for such a status in accordance with the required procedures.

Western European Union*

[Original: English]

[25 June 1993]

1. The Western European Union (WEU) attaches great importance to enhancing the role of the United Nations and its Security Council in maintaining international peace and security. I welcome therefore this opportunity to indicate how WEU envisages future cooperation with the United Nations in the fields mentioned in your letter. My reply is without prejudice to the question of whether WEU is a regional arrangement or agency as referred to in Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

2. In their Declaration agreed upon at Maastricht on 10 December 1991, the States members of the Western European Union committed themselves to develop WEU as the defence component of the European Union and as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance. Since then, WEU has concentrated

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* Reply from the Secretary-General of the Union.

its efforts on giving concrete expression to this dual vocation notably by developing its operational role. In their Petersberg Declaration of 19 June 1992, Foreign and Defence Ministers of WEU defined the three types of missions for which military units acting under WEU authority could be employed, namely: humanitarian and rescue tasks, peace-keeping and tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peacemaking. The WEU Planning Cell, inter alia, was created to conduct the necessary planning for these missions. It is in the context of WEU's operational role that WEU member States, at the Petersberg meeting, declared their readiness to support, on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with WEU procedures, the effective implementation of conflict prevention and crisis management measures including peace-keeping activities of the CSCE and United Nations Security Council. Participation in specific operations will remain a sovereign decision of member States in accordance with national constitutions.

3. I wish to recall the various activities which WEU has undertaken, or is presently conducting, which are relevant to the subjects mentioned in your letter.

4. During the conflict between Iran and Iraq in 1987-1988, WEU ships conducted mine-clearing operations in the Gulf to ensure the unhindered movement of international maritime traffic in this area. Secondly, in the context of the measures taken by the international community following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, ships of WEU member States conducted mine-clearing and embargo enforcement operations in the Gulf. All these measures were undertaken in the framework of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

5. WEU is also contributing in various ways to the search for a resolution of the conflict in former Yugoslavia. Since July 1992, ships and aircraft of WEU member States have been conducting first-embargo monitoring, and subsequently embargo enforcement, operations in the Adriatic. Now, following the decision taken by the joint session of the Council of Western European Union and North Atlantic Council held on 8 June, combined WEU/North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) operations are under way in the Adriatic to ensure the strict implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions, in particular 820. WEU member States are also assisting Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania in enforcing sanctions and the embargo on the Danube.

6. Furthermore, WEU has conducted contingency planning for a number of aspects relating to the situation in former Yugoslavia, notably regarding the possible creation of a Safe Haven around Sarajevo. The results of this planning were transmitted to the United Nations earlier this year. WEU Ministers, at their meeting in Rome on 19 May 1993, have now requested that a study be made on the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions relating to Safe Areas and on the possible rotation of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) contingents from the WEU member States.

7. In response to your letter and in the context of WEU's enhanced role as outlined above, it therefore seems important to increase contacts and exchanges of information between the United Nations and WEU.

8. The mission to the United Nations in New York of the country holding the Presidency of WEU will act as a point of contact for the United Nations and will be responsible for the introduction of WEU contributions to the United Nations.

9. In addition, WEU is ready to discuss with you ways to develop appropriate contacts and exchanges of information between the WEU Secretariat-General and Planning Cell and relevant United Nations Secretariat bodies.

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REPLIES RECEIVED FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVING RECEIVED A STANDING INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SESSIONS AND THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS OBSERVERS

Commonwealth Secretariat 2

Commonwealth Secretariat

[Original: English]

[15 July 1993]

1. Unlike the United Nations, the Commonwealth has no formal charter. The principles that guide the association have been articulated in major declarations over the years, notably in the 1971 Singapore Declaration of Commonwealth Principles and in the 1991 Harare Commonwealth Declaration. At both Singapore and Harare, and on several other occasions, Commonwealth leaders have emphasized that international peace and order and the rule of international law are essential to the security and prosperity of mankind. It has been the practice for Commonwealth leaders at the Heads of the Government Meetings to make pronouncements on security-related issues as well as to establish, whenever they have judged necessary, mechanisms aimed at assisting in the maintenance of peace and the resolution of disputes. They have done this, for example, through the establishment of the Commonwealth Action Group on Cyprus, the Ministerial Group on Belize and the Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa.

2. Although the Commonwealth has tended not to be directly involved in peace-keeping operations, its activities over the past three decades have occasionally included, in a discreet manner, and in response to requests from the concerned member Governments, use of the good offices of the Commonwealth Secretary-General to defuse potential or actual conflict situations. To that extent, a Commonwealth role in preventive diplomacy and peace-building is not precluded.

3. The Commonwealth has some comparative advantage in undertaking bridge-building roles within its own family of nations - for example, the use of a common language, shared traditions, the commonality of instructions, the convention of consensus in decision-making - which provide distinctive attributes affording the Commonwealth a capacity for the harmonization of views among member countries. The Commonwealth commitment to pluralism and its own diverse membership further facilitate such a role.

4. The Commonwealth Secretariat works closely with the United Nations and its specialized agencies across a broad spectrum of social, political and economic issues. Cooperation with the United Nations is pursued through the Secretariat's observer status in the General Assembly. There is constant and close interaction between officials of both organizations. At Harare, Commonwealth leaders once again underscored the need for continuing Commonwealth support to the United Nations.

5. It may be pertinent to recall that, in response to Security Council resolution 772 (1992), the Commonwealth has deployed, since October 1992, a Commonwealth Observer Mission to South Africa which works closely with the United Nations and other observer groups, as well as with the structures established under the National Peace Accord, in efforts to arrest the cycle of violence and promote a climate favourable to the resumption of constitutional negotiations.

6. The Commonwealth Heads of Government remain committed to utilizing the consensus-building ability of the Commonwealth for the benefit of its membership

and the wider global society. At their forthcoming meeting in Cyprus, they will no doubt seek to harness this ability in an effort to assist the United Nations, now approaching its fiftieth anniversary, to realize better the aims and objectives of its Charter.